

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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ECONOMIC SURVEYS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service is gearing up to conduct the 2004 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS). This annual survey is a vital tool for measuring the economic health of the nation's farms and ranches, as it is the only national source of current economic data on agriculture. Information gathered in ARMS is used by farm organizations, legislators, and others who make critical decisions that affect our nation's agriculture. "This is each farmer's chance to have their voice heard. It is critical that every farmer selected participate so that each type and size of farm in Maryland has representation," said Norman Bennett, Director of the Maryland Agriculture Statistics Service (MASS).

Agriculture Secretary, Lewis Riley, stated that "accurate information reflecting fact as opposed to opinion or speculation is the key to development of policies and programs that provide lasting benefits to the agricultural community".

ARMS data are used in many ways. For example:

Economists use the data to produce descriptions of current economic conditions on farms. They make use of the data to estimate impacts of rising costs, such as land, fuel, and fertilizer, and disease outbreaks, such as soybean rust, avian influenza, and mad cow disease. Many enterprise budgets are based on ARMS data.

Legislators use the data to understand the impact of their policy decisions on the farm economy, such as proposed changes to the current Social Security system. ARMS data always plays a critical role in the Federal Farm Bill legislation.

Organizations such as the Farm Bureau, use the results to lobby for farm policy that promotes production agriculture.

Government agencies use the data in many ways. For example, the Farm Service Agency requires the data to develop program payments to farmers.

Farmers themselves make use of the data to determine the feasibility and profit gained by making changes to their operation.

Local data collection for the 2004 ARMS will be conducted by trained interviewers during March and April. For additional information about the current year's survey, contact Norman Bennett, MASS State Director, at 410-841-5740. Reports from previous surveys may be viewed at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/ARMS>.

2004 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SURVEY INTERVIEWERS

Kay Spinnato	Patricia Low	John Wilson	Jacqui England	Rebecca Powel	Nola Ramsburg
Caroline	Dorchester	Anne Arundel	Cecil	Carroll	Frederick
Wicomico	Somerset	Prince Georges	Harford	Howard	Washington
Worcester	Wicomico	Jerry Shaw	Rich Frounfelter	Montgomery	Carolyn Ganoe
Linda Sockrider	Worcester	Charles	Baltimore	Jean Yeakel	Allegany
Dorchester	P.A. Keating	St. Mary's	Carroll	Carroll	Garrett
Talbot	Kent		Harford	Grayson Bowers	Washington
	Queen Anne's			Frederick	

FRUIT PRODUCTION

Maryland fruit growers produced 34.1 million pounds of *apples* in 2004, down 15 percent from 40.0 million pounds in 2003. Utilized production totaled 33.0 million pounds, down 14 percent from 38.4 million pounds in 2003. The season average price for utilized production was 13.6 cents per pound, down 2 cents per pound from 2003. Maryland's value of utilized production totaled 4.49 million dollars in 2004, down 25 percent from 6.01 million dollars in 2003. Maryland's utilized *peach* production totaled 4,100 ton, down 3.5 percent from 2003. The season average price for the 2004 peach crop was \$558 per ton, compared with \$947 per ton in 2003. The value of utilized production totaled \$2.3 million dollars, down 43 percent from \$4.0 million in 2003.

United States utilized apple production for 2004 is

estimated at 9.93 billion pounds, up 15 percent from the 2003 level. Utilized production for Washington and New York increased 30 percent and 7 percent, respectively, while Michigan's utilized production decreased 19 percent compared to last year. In Washington, excellent growing conditions allowed production to rebound from the short 2003 crop. Yield potential in Michigan was reduced by a hard freeze during the first week of May. Widespread hail storms in the early Fall further curtailed Michigan production. Heat in California and remnants of the hurricanes in Pennsylvania record utilized production from 2003.

MARYLAND AND UNITED STATES FRUIT PRODUCTION AND VALUE								
	Total Production		Utilized Production		Season Average Price		Value of Utilized Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Million /LBS				Cents/LBS		Thousand \$	
APPLES								
Maryland	40.0	34.1	38.4	33.0	15.6	13.6	6,008	4,486
United States	8,713.1	10,078.3	8,623.0	9,927.9	21.0	17.7	1,181,130	1,758,277
PEACHES								
	Ton		Ton		\$/ton		Thousand \$	
Maryland	4,250	4,100	4,250	4,100	947.0	558.0	4,024	2,289
United States	1,259,500	1,279,110	1,205,150	1,226,800	377.0	376.0	454,286	461,216

MILK PRODUCTION

Maryland dairy operators produced 288 million pounds of milk during the October-December quarter, down 4 percent from the same quarter a year earlier. The average number of milk cows were estimated at 73,000 head for the quarter, 4,000 fewer than a year earlier. Average milk production per cow at 3,945 pounds increased 36

pounds from a year earlier. The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.9 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.02 million head, 7,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Milk Production October - December Quarter 2003 and 2004							
STATE	MILK COWS ¹		MILK PER COW ²		MILK PRODUCTION ²		2004/2003
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	
	<i>Thousand</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Maryland	77	73	3,909	3,945	301	288	96
United States	9,011	9,018	4,609	4,646	41,532	41,895	101

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

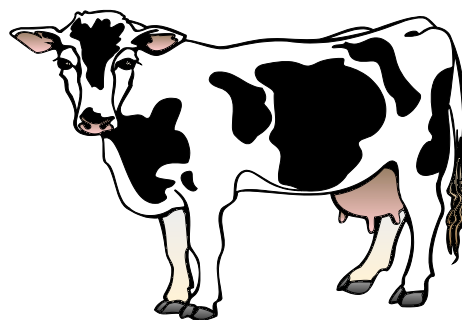
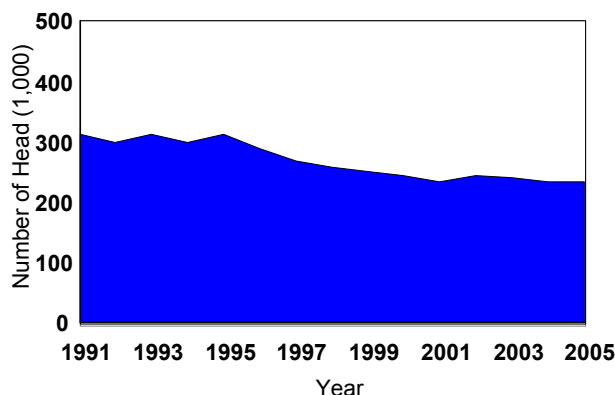
² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CATTLE INVENTORY

Maryland: The January 1, 2005 number of all cattle and calves on Maryland farms at 235,000 head was unchanged from January 2003. The number of cows being milked declined 4,000 head while dairy replacement heifers increased 2,000 over last year. Beef cows increased 1,000 head from the previous year to 43,000 head. Beef replacement heifers were 2,000 head above 2004. The number of calves on farms on January 1, 2005 was 42,000, unchanged from 2004.

United States: All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, 1 percent above the 94.9 million on January 1, 2004. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2004. Beef cows, at 33.06 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2004. Milk cows, at 9.01 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2004. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.75 million, were up 4 percent. Calves under 500 pounds, at 15.4 million, were up 1 percent.

**Cattle and Calf Inventory
Maryland, 1991-2005**



	Maryland		United States	
	CATTLE AND CALVES		CATTLE AND CALVES	
Class	Jan 1, 2004	Jan 1, 2005	Jan 1, 2004	Jan 1, 2005
	<i>-----Thousand-----</i>			
Cattle and Calves (Total)	235	235	94,888	95,848
Cows and Heifers that have calved	119	116	41,851	42,060
Beef Cows	42	43	32,861	33,055
Milk cows	77	73	8,990	9,005
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	50	55	19,345	19,673
For Beef Cow Replacement	10	12	5,518	5,746
For Milk Cow Replacement	30	32	4,020	4,133
Other Heifers	10	11	9,806	9,793
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	20	18	16,277	16,511
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	4	4	2,206	2,219
Calves Under 500 Pounds	42	42	15,210	15,385

CHICKENS AND EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 72 million eggs during December 2004, of which 70 million were table eggs and 2 million were hatching eggs. The average number of layers on hand during December 2004 was 3,198,000. On January 1, 2005, 8% of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 33.5% of all layers had been through a molt.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.70 billion during December 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.62 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2004 averaged 345 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,235 eggs, up 1 percent from December 2003.

Eggs and Layers: December 2003-2004			
Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
Eggs Produced During December	<i>-----Million-----</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Maryland	70	72	103
U.S.	7,520	7,699	102
Layers, Average Number During December	<i>-----Thousand-----</i>		
Maryland	2,979	3,198	107
U.S.	338,243	344,533	102
Eggs / 100 Layers During December	<i>-----Number-----</i>		
Maryland	2,417	2,408	100
U.S.	2,223	2,235	101

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT NORMAN BENNETT, STATE DIRECTOR AT (410)-841-5740
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